

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Figs. 2 and 4-6 have been amended to show the second housing part 14 made of plastic, to be consistent with the specification.

Fig. 3 has been amended to replace the arrow with a lead line that originates from reference character 48 and extends to the centering pin that has bevels 60 and 66.

Attachment: Replacement Drawing Sheets

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 4, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18 and 20 are currently amended, claims 3 and 22 are canceled, and claim 23 is added, leaving claims 2, 5-9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19 and 21 unchanged. Claims 2, 6, 11-13, 15-17, 19 and 21 were previously withdrawn.

Specification Objections

The Abstract is objected for including the phrase “the invention concerns” and the term “means”. The Abstract has been amended to delete these items.

The description is objected to because paragraph 0028 is inconsistent with the drawings. The drawings are amended to be consistent with the description. Withdrawal of these objections is respectfully requested.

Drawing Objections

The drawings are objected to for illustrating the second housing part 14 with cross-hatching that denotes metal, which was inconsistent with the indication in the specification that the second housing part 14 is plastic. The drawings have been amended to set forth the appropriate plastic cross-hatching for the second housing part 14.

The drawings are objected to because the arrow associated with reference character 48 in Fig. 3 did not extend to the centering pin that has bevels 60 and 66. The arrow has been deleted and replaced with a line that extends from reference character 48 to the centering pin. Withdrawal of the objections is respectfully requested.

Claim Objection

The claims are objected to because the term “Drive unit” in line 1 of claim 1 is considered a typographical error. Claim 1 has been amended to set forth “A drive unit” as requested by the Examiner. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections

Claims 1, 3-5, 7-10, 14, 18, 20 and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.

The term “can be connected” in claim 1 has been amended to set forth “are connected” to define that the first housing part and the second housing part are connected.

The term “sleeve-like” in claim 4 has been amended to set forth “sleeves” to clarify the scope of the claim.

Claims 1, 3, 7, 10, 18 and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Publication No. WO 01/61133 (Hager).

Claims 4, 5, 8, 14 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hager in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,938,086 (Nolte).

Claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of original claims 3 and 22. Specifically, claim 1 sets forth a drive unit that includes, among other things, a first housing part, and a second housing part, which is connected to the first housing part by means of connecting elements, wherein the first housing part features receptacles for the connecting elements, characterized in that the receptacles are embodied as centering holes for corresponding centering pins, which are arranged on the second housing part, characterized in that the second housing part features counter receptacles for the connecting elements, which are surrounded at least partially by the centering pins, and characterized in that the first and second housing parts are assigned bearing functions for an armature shaft.

Hager does not teach or suggest a drive unit that includes, among other things, connecting elements that connect the first and second housing parts and centering pins and respective centering holes, such that the connecting elements are surrounded at least partially by the centering pins, as claimed in claim 1. Rather, Hager discloses a motor housing 1 that includes several sockets 5 that receive connecting elements 4. Hager does not teach or suggest both connecting elements and centering pins. In the Office Action, the screws 4 in Hager are equated with the “corresponding centering pins 48” in claim 1. However, this is not admissible, since, in our claim 1, the use of the “connecting elements 40” is unambiguously differentiated from the “corresponding centering pins 48”, the latter being arranged fixedly on the second housing part 14. This is developed in amended claim 1, by it being explicitly explained that the “connecting elements 40” are surrounded at least partially by the “centering pins 48”. Specifically, in the election of species, claims drawn to embodiments in which the connecting elements 40 are

embodied as centering pins 48 are withdrawn. In the elected claims, the connecting elements 40 are distinct from the centering pins 48.

Unlike the Hager design, the present invention is intended precisely to solve the problem that the motor housing cannot be centered precisely in relation to the gear housing. Also, in Hager, the two flanges are connected to each other by means of the screws 4. The receptacles for the screws are in no way adequate for a positionally precise connection so as to align the bearing of the motor housing with the bearing of the gear housing. Therefore, it is important for the present invention to fixedly mold the “centering pins 48” on the second housing part (gear housing) or electronic housing 14, 15, when the second housing part is connected to the first motor housing, to reliably fix them with respect to each other. By contrast, Hager does not have any centering pins 48, and therefore the two flanges with their respective receiving openings can be displaced in relation to each other, for example, by 1 to 2 millimeters, but this constitutes too great a tolerance of the exact mounting of the armature shaft.

For at least these reasons, Hager does not teach or suggest each and every element of claim 1. Claims 2 and 4-21 depend from claim 1 and are allowable for the same and other reasons.

Nolte does not cure the deficiencies of Hager. Specifically, Nolte does not teach or suggest a drive unit that includes, among other things, connecting elements that connect the first and second housing parts and centering pins and respective centering holes, such that the connecting elements are surrounded at least partially by the centering pins, as claimed in claim 1. Rather, Nolte discloses a window operator having a pin 44 and a bushing 50. Nolte does not teach or suggest both connecting elements and centering pins. Rather, the “bushing 50” from Nolte is equated here with a “centering pin 48” according to claim 1. However, it should be noted in this case that the “bushing 50” serves as a bearing receptacle for the “pin 44” which, in turn, serves as a bearing shaft for a “gear 20” and a “pull arm 22”. This means that, in the operating state of the window operator, the “gear 20” together with the “bushing 50” rotates relative to the “pin 44” via the “pull arm 22”. However, a bearing bushing of this type would never be used by a person skilled in the art in order to seal two housing parts 12, 14 of a drive unit fixedly and immovably to each other. Therefore, a combination of the Nolte and Hager documents is inadmissible and based on post analysis.

For at least these reasons, Hager and Nolte, either alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest each and every element of claims 1, 2 and 4-21. Withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claims 1, 2 and 4-21 is respectfully requested.

New claim 23 recites a drive unit that includes, among other things, a first housing part, and a second housing part, which is connected to the first housing part by means of connecting elements, wherein the first housing part features receptacles for the connecting elements, characterized in that the receptacles are embodied as centering holes for corresponding centering pins, which are arranged on the second housing part, and characterized in that centering pins and the second housing part are formed as one unitary piece by injection molding.

Hager does not teach or suggest a drive unit that includes, among other things, connecting elements that connect the first and second housing parts and centering pins and respective centering holes, such that the centering pins and the second housing part are formed as one unitary piece by injection molding, as claimed in claim 23. Rather, Hager discloses a motor housing 1 that includes several sockets 5 that receive connecting elements 4. Hager does not teach or suggest both connecting elements and centering pins. For at least these reasons, Hager does not teach or suggest each and every element of claim 23.

Nolte does not cure the deficiencies of Hager. Specifically, Nolte does not teach or suggest a drive unit that includes, among other things, connecting elements that connect the first and second housing parts and centering pins and respective centering holes, such that the centering pins and the second housing part are formed as one unitary piece by injection molding, as claimed in claim 23. Rather, Nolte discloses a window operator having a pin 44 and a bushing 50. Nolte does not teach or suggest both connecting elements and centering pins. For at least these reasons, Nolte does not teach or suggest each and every element of claim 23. Therefore, claim 23 is allowable over Hager and Nolte, taken alone or in combination.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request entry of the present Amendment, allowance of claims 1, 4, 5, 7-10, 14, 18, 20 and 23 and re-entry of withdrawn claims 2, 6, 11-13, 15-17, 19 and 21.

If additional consultation will further prosecution, the undersigned is available during normal business hours at the below-identified telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Julianne M. Cozad Smith', with a stylized, flowing script.

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